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June 29, 1999

Dockets Management Branch
The Food and Drug Administration
Department of Health and Human Services, Rm. 1-23
12420 Parklawn Dr.
Rockville, MD 20857

Re: 99P-1340/CP 1
Petition to have "Eternity eau de parfum" declared misbranded

Dear Sir or Madam,

I am writing to express my strong support for petition number *99P-1340/CP 1* which was filed by the Environmental Health Network on May 11, 1999.

I am one of countless people who suffer ill effects when exposed to artificially fragranced products. In some respects I am one of the lucky ones, because I have finally discovered the connection between exposure to such products and my debilitating health symptoms, which were originally diagnosed as fibromyalgia. I was puzzled as to why my symptoms (extreme muscle pain, fatigue, headaches, abdominal distress, "brainfog") were so much worse on some days than others. As I began to look for my "symptom triggers" I had no reason to consider exposure to artificial fragrances as a possible factor. I simply didn't realize that many of the ingredients used in such products have not been adequately tested for safety.

I understand that your regulation 21CFR Sec. 740.10 states that "each ingredient used in a cosmetic product and each finished cosmetic product shall be adequately substantiated for safety prior to marketing. Any such ingredient or product whose safety is not adequately substantiated prior to marketing is misbranded unless it contains the following conspicuous statement on the principal display panel: "Warning--The safety of this product has not been determined."

The petition filed by the EHN clearly shows that "Eternity" perfume contains ingredients that have not been adequately substantiated for safety. A warning label is surely indicated.

I have lived in Lima, Peru for much of the past 10 years. I returned to the United States in July of 1998 and have found myself in a quandary. Although I believe I have exhausted the health-care resources available to me in Peru, I find my symptoms worse in the United States, where artificial fragrances are a ubiquitous part of everyday life. It is extremely difficult to find fragrance-free zones in this country. Surely a partial reason for this is that most Americans have

99P-1340

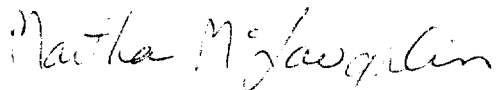
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no idea that artificially fragranced products, which seem so pleasing to the senses, can actually be hazardous to health.

Living overseas has given me a new perspective on the role of the United States in the world. Although our international credibility is slipping in many ways, I strongly believe that many other nations of the world still look to the U.S. for leadership and guidance in many areas, including product safety. The reasoning seems to be as follows: "If the United States, with all of the money and resources that they have available for testing products, says that something is OK, then they must be right." We have an enormous responsibility to use our international position wisely and well.

I urge you, on behalf of millions of people who suffer ill effects from artificially fragranced products -- many of whom have not yet made the connection between exposure to such products and their health symptoms, to give petition number *99P-1340/CP 1* serious consideration.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Martha McLaughlin". The ink is dark and the handwriting is fluid, with a large, stylized 'M' at the beginning.

Martha McLaughlin

Martha B. McLaughlin
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